



### Blue butterflies feared extinct

United Press International  
LONDON — Scientists say the large blue butterfly — a wonder of nature that could live only if kidnapped by hungry ants — is extinct in England because the last known batch of its eggs failed to hatch.

"The loss illustrates the extreme vulnerability of wildlife to the whittling away of habitats," said Professor Fred Holloway, president of the Nature Conservancy Council.

The strange butterfly was abundant in England for thousands of years and was thriving as recently as the mid-1950s. But environmental changes in England's farmlands led to depletion of the blue butterfly population, the NCC said.

A research program in 1972 found the butterfly was dependent on a fragile environment based on help from a certain kind of red ant.

Young blue caterpillars oozed a honeydew substance that attracted the ants, which would carry the caterpillars back to their nests. For the rest of the winter months, the caterpillars would feed on ant larvae. In spring, they changed into butterflies.

But the last-known batch of eggs didn't hatch, the environmental groups said this week.

### Farmland popular investment

## Foreigners buying Texas?

United Press International  
AUSTIN — A Netherlands firm recently purchased 9,206 acres of farmland in Delta County in northeast Texas, immediately placing more than 5 percent of that county's land area in foreign ownership.

The same firm, Sulphur Bluff Realty of Antilles, Netherlands, bought more than 14,000 acres of land valued at \$5.3 million in a six-month period, according to reports filed under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act in 1975.

Those purchases, along with an influx of buyers from West Germany, Switzerland, Canada and other countries is encouraging a number of legislators to attempt to place limitations on foreign ownership of land in Texas.

"It's getting to the point of some of our resources," said Speaker Bill Clayton,

who has been reluctant to push for legislation prohibiting or placing restrictions on foreign ownership of agricultural land.

The Delta County land purchase by Sulphur Bluff Realty amounts to 5.2 percent of that county's total land area, and an even larger percentage of its usable farm land.

The same firm purchased 4,753 acres of land in Hopkins County, and 117 acres in Franklin County.

Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, who was a co-sponsor last session of unsuccessful attempts to restrict foreign ownership of agricultural land in Texas, said it is time the state placed limits on foreign buyers.

"It's a frightening situation when we see so much of our land starting to be purchased by the Germans, for instance, and the Japanese, Arabs and others that are coming in and buying up our resources,"

Kubiak said.

Kubiak contends the strongest opposition to proposed controls on foreign land purchases in Texas came from Shell Oil Co. He said about 75 percent of Shell's ownership is in the Netherlands, and said the firm went all out to block passage of a bill limiting purchases of agricultural land by foreigners.

"They were really ruthless and wanted no compromise," Kubiak said.

"We asked them why they were so interested in agricultural land, and they said they didn't want to go into agricultural production, but didn't want to be prohibited from doing so."

Records on file in the office of Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown show West Germans were the heaviest investors in Texas lands in a recent six month period, paying an estimated \$7.2 million for 8,456

acres of land, including more than 1,000 acres in citrus groves in Hidalgo County and 3,548 acres in Zavala County.

A Mexican buyer, Alvaro Lebrija, purchased 14,030 acres of land in Pecos County for grazing, and A.F. Longoria of Mexico purchased 2,987 acres in La Salle County.

Purchases of more than 1,000 acres by buyers from Canada, Holland, Switzerland and West Germany also were recorded in Denton, Bowie, Henderson, and Blanco counties.

Kubiak contends many of the countries have treaties with the United States allowing their citizens to purchase Texas land, produce food on it, and sell the food outside the U.S. and not pay any taxes.

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